

Minutes of the meeting of the parish council held on Monday 16th October 2023, 7.30 pm at Evenley Village Hall

Present: Spencer Burnham (SB), Paul Crompton (PC), Cathy Ellis (CE), Jean Morgan (JM), Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (JPB), Charles Reader (CR), Cathy Knott (CK) clerk and seven members of the public

134/23 To receive apologies for absence and welcome

Apologies received and accepted for Sue Ricketts (SR). The chairman thanked everyone for attending.

135/23 To receive and approve for signature the minutes of the annual meeting of the parish council held on 4th September 2023

The minutes were approved and signed.

136/23 To note any matters arising from the minutes not included on this agenda for report only

118/23 – the ERA held a public meeting on 9th October and agreed to merge the two organisations; Evenley Matters and Evenley Resident’s Association with a new constitution. They will continue under the name of Evenley Matters (to be confirmed). The chairman attended saying it was a positive, well-informed meeting with full disclosure of monies. All documentation is available on the community website and updates will be included in the quarterly newsletters.

123/23 – a new date for an Autumn cleanup will be confirmed.

129/23 – cllr JPB will speak to the resident who installed bollards on the verge in Church Lane.

Action: JPB

132/23 – the chairman thanked cllr CR for strimming the Puddleduck footpath.

137/23 To receive declarations of interest related to business on the agenda

Cllr JM for 136/23 – member of Evenley Matters.

Cllr JPB for 138/23 – invoice for defibrillator cupboard items.

Cllr CE for 139/23 – neighbour re. planning application 2023/6232/FULL.

Cllr CR for 149/23 – land regarding Barney Estates.

138/23 Finance: (different to agenda)

- a. Financial statement
- b. To note payments received
- c. To consider invoices to be paid

Account balances	£
Community	15,867.30
Business Saver	25,295.56
National Savings	5,881.42
TOTAL	47,044.28

Income received since the last meeting		VAT
WNC (2 nd half of precept)	12,160.00	
Bank interest	160.79	
Payments made since the last meeting		
British Gas (Sept)	15.01	0.75
SSE (Streetlight electricity)	104.83	5.23
GoHenry (Freddie Walker delivery fee, Autumn newsletter)	30.00	0
PWLB (loan repayment for streetlight replacement)	1750.05	0
Unity Trust Bank (service charge)	18.00	0
Payments approved		
C. Knott (Oct salary + tax)	700.42	0
Barclaycard (Mailchimp monthly subs & DefibShop new pads)	89.04	15.29
Electricity Network Contractors Ltd (repairs/replacements to faulty lamps)	1871.97	374.39
Barbara Osbourne (PAYE service July to Sept)	69.00	0

M Dempsey (mowing invoice)	2840.00	0
Jeff Peyton-Bruhl (torch & batteries for defibrillator cupboard)	5.00	0
*SSE (streetlight electricity)	104.83	5.23
British Gas (electricity on the Green)	14.54	0.72
WAVE (allotment water)	37.10	0

*the clerk will notify SSE again regarding the unmetered supply still showing the wrong address.

d. To receive a half year budget report from the internal controls' councillor

Cllr SB shared a spreadsheet showing year-to-date expenditure (which is in line with the current budget) and explained how the income, donations received and reserves are shown (see appendix one).

139/23 To consider new planning applications/to receive an update on outstanding applications

*WNS/2022/1557/EIA	Proposed construction and operation of an anaerobic digestion facility, ancillary infrastructure, planting and the construction of a new access road from the B4031. Location: Astwick Green Power Land, North of Barley Mow Farm, Buckingham Road	EPC: Objection WNC: pending
WNS/2022/2062/FUL	Proposal Permanent retention of temporary planning permission approved under S/2020/0303/FUL. Location Land North of Cottesford Road, Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: pending
2023/5682/FULL	Single storey glass room located on the rear elevation of the property. Location Threshing Barn Slade Farm Buckingham Road Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: REFUSED & APPEAL LODGED
2023/5367/FULL	To formalise the creation of two dwellings from a single dwelling. Location: Plomers Furze Farm, Charlton Rd, Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: APPROVED
2023/6067/FULL	Proposed Single Storey Rear Extension with Associated Internal and External works. Location 12 Church Leys Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: pending
2023/6060/FULL	Alterations and refurbishments including extend existing post-war rear 2-storey addition (retaining existing ridge), add new conservation roof lights + internal alterations. Location 2 Church Lane Evenley	EPC: Support with comment WNC: pending
2023/6175/FULL	Proposal single dwelling. Location Land at Windrush 23 Church Lane Evenley	EPC: objection WNC: pending
2023/6232/FULL	Proposed single dwelling and adjoining garage with parking, turning and amenity. Location Land Rear of 22 The Green Evenley	EPC: objection WNC: pending
2023/6342/FULL	Proposal Rear extension incorporating rear raised patio, rendering existing bungalow and creation of new detached garage Location Field View Buckingham Road Evenley	EPC: no objection WNC: pending
2023/6477/OUT	Proposal Outline permission for one detached dwelling. Location Paddock House Barley Mow Farm Buckingham Road Evenley NN13 5SB	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2023/6514/HS2	Submission in accordance with Paragraph 12, Part 1 of Schedule 17 of the High-Speed Rail (London – West Midlands) Act 2017 for a site restoration scheme at a parcel of land located adjacent to A422 (grid ref 460579, 236484). Location: Land located adjacent to A422 (grid ref 460579, 236484	EPC: no comment WNC: pending
2023/6099/FULL	Proposal Installation of solar panels on pitched roof all black monocrystalline pv panels. 1 x sunsynk 8kw in loft capped to 5kw 1 x sunsynk 5.12 kw battery in loft. Location 5A Rudgeway	EPC: no comment WNC: pending

*WNS/2022/1557/EIA proposed anaerobic digestion facility – the chairman advised the application is not on the agenda to be heard at this month's strategic committee meeting. The next committee meeting dates are 21st November and 11th December.

140/23 Proposal to replace the tree on the green in School Lane and to provide staking for the tree on the village green (opposite Forge Coffee)

The chairman advised the tree on the Green needs to be protected as the trunk has been damaged and it is growing at a perilous angle, probably caused by people leaning their bikes against it. It was agreed to get costings for a sturdy galvanised tree guard and cllr PC suggested we ask Forge Coffee for a donation towards it.

Two trees have died in School Lane. It was resolved to get prices to replace them.

Action: CE

141/23 To agree councillor responsibilities

The following changes were agreed:

- Cllr SB – remove EV charging points.
- Cllr JM – remove WNC, add footpaths and bus shelter.
- Cllr SR – remove footpaths and add WNC.

142/23 To review the three-year action plan

The chairman talked through the plan shown on the big screen. Councillors resolved to purchase three bat boxes for Evenley Common (at the cost of £15 each). Regarding tree identification, Alison O'Hare from Evenley Wood Garden is lending their gardener to identify the trees which we hope to list on our community website. **Action: CE**

A discussion was held around adding more bollards to the Green, as more and more people seem to be parking and causing the edges to erode further. Cllr PC suggested we try to understand the specifics of why this is happening and agreed to carry out a scientific survey. **Action: PC**

As we now have a good number of benches on the Green, it was agreed to suggest other avenues to remember loved ones rather than have too many memorial benches.

It was agreed we should move forward with the bus shelter (using external funding).

The chairman proposed we should purchase more daffodil bulbs to be planted along Broad Lane; all agreed.

It was noted the railings over the river at the bottom of Mill Lane are broken and dangerous. This should be reported on [FixMyStreet \(northamptonshire.gov.uk\)](https://www.fixmystreet.northamptonshire.gov.uk)

143/23 To provide a report on the Ward meeting held on 12th September

The clerk provided highlights of the meeting which the chairman read out including information on ward boundaries, planning, budget and local area partnerships. As soon as the minutes have been received from Kings Sutton, the clerk will attach them to our website.

144/23 To provide a report on NCALC's annual conference held on 7th October

The chairman and vice-chairman attended the conference, saying it was an interesting morning and encouraging to hear from other councils experiencing the same issues we have. The notes can be viewed at:

[2023 Annual Conference | My Website \(northantscalc.com\)](https://www.northantscalc.com/2023-Annual-Conference)

145/23 To discuss arrangements for Remembrance Day and Christmas

The chairman advised Evenley WI has made a beautiful cascade of poppies (photos were shown on the big screen). It was agreed we should ask them to display this for the whole of November. There will be a service of remembrance at the war memorial on Sunday 12th November. The clerk has invited a representative from RAF Croughton to attend and the village hall has been booked. Cllr CR will organise cones for the road.

The chairman has ordered the Christmas tree and will ask Carrie and Kevin if they will organise singing around the tree again week commencing 18th December (TBC). Mulled wine and mince pies to be served afterwards.

146/23 To make arrangements for the clerk's appraisal

It was agreed to try and meet before the next meeting.

147/23 Agree flag raising days for 2024 and discuss whether to purchase a new flag

Union flag flying days were shown on the big screen (taken from the union flag flying guidance for UK government buildings) and agreed for 2024. Councillors resolved not to purchase a new Evenley flag (at the cost of £440 + VAT). We will only raise the Evenley flag on certain days; the clerk will advise our flag warden of the dates.

148/23 To accept councillors reports on the following areas (if there is anything to report):

- Allotments** the water has been turned off for the winter. It was agreed to add the reorganisation of plots to the January agenda.
- Evenley Common** see item 142/23.
- Street Lighting** our contractors Electricity Network Contractors Ltd, have replaced/repaired all the faulty lamps. The redundant telegraph pole has been removed from Church Lane.
- Village Hall** cllr PC will arrange a meeting with the chairman of EVHMC.
- Website** there have been some issues recently which have now been resolved. It was agreed to speak to a resident about migrating to a new website. **Action: CE**
- Village Green and Trees** the chairman has trimmed several trees.
- Newsletter** the Autumn edition was delivered on 17th September. It is hoped to publish the Winter edition to go out mid to late November.
- HS2 & Highways** it has been noted HS2 trucks come through the village when there are issues on the A43; this has been reported. Northants Highways has installed a new soak away on Broad Lane however, flooding

continues to be an issue at certain properties. The chairman has written again requesting another site visit. The 30mph roundels in the village need repainting and need to be reported on fix-my-street.

- i. **Three-year action plan** see item 142/23.
- j. **St. George's Church** nothing to report.

149/23 To note correspondence received that requires discussion

- Resident request for a 20mph speed limit to apply to Evenley (or parts of) – the clerk will try to purchase '20 is plenty' signage and will contact Northants Highways to ask about lowering the speed limit.
- WNC consultation requesting views on the interim bus policy priorities – the clerk has responded on behalf of EPC and circulated via Mailchimp. Anyone can respond individually until 12th November at: [Give us your views on the interim bus policy priorities - West Northamptonshire Council - Citizen Space](#)

Clr CR left the meeting due to a declaration of interest regarding the following item.

- Correspondence regarding Barney Estates – the chairman advised she has been liaising with the M.O.D. and a landowner who has sold land to Barney Estates & Auctioneers (who appear to be buying up parcels of land in the county and wider field and trying to sell them to members of the travelling community). She asked everyone with land to be aware of this company who although aren't acting illegally, are acting immorally. It is hoped the landowner will be able to pull out of the deal.
- Evenley Wood Garden correspondence – EWG is prepared to pay for a sign at the bottom of Bicester Hill directing visitors to the Gardens. It was noted the Google and Apple maps are still directing traffic to the Green rather than the Gardens; the clerk will write to EWG asking if the postcode can be amended. It was agreed to look again at fingerpost signage for the Green and ask a blacksmith for costs. If viable, we would ask each signed attraction for a contribution. **Action: CE/CK**
- Resident request to install more bollards around the Green – see item 142/23. Clr PC will carry out a survey to understand whether more bollards are needed.
- Petition to Parliament urging the Government to step in and ensure local road closures in South Northamptonshire are properly coordinated in a way that does not significantly impact residents – the survey was circulated for signing.

150/23 To receive areas for improvement suggestion(s) from members

None received.

151/23 Councillors questions/comments

Clr PC advised the Red Lion would be hosting the Thai food van on Sunday evenings.

Clr PC reported the hedge on the corner of Church Leys and Broad Lane is so wide it is hard to stay on the footpath to get past it; the clerk will write to the owners. It was also noted that two trees on the corner of Lawyers Close are very overgrown. The clerk will carry out a land registry search to see who owns the land they are on. **Action: CK**

152/23 Public Participation session (*members of the public are invited to address the council through the chairman*).

A resident advised the Green is looking a lot healthier now and thanked the council for doing such a good job. He said it is unfortunate people don't take any notice of the signs asking people not to park on the grass or keep dogs on leads when walking on the Green.

A resident advised the new Coronation bench located to the front of Lawyers Close wasn't the best place for it. The chairman advised we listened to villagers who suggested this location.

It was noted two cars appear to have been dumped on Church Lane; the clerk will make enquiries.

153/23 Close

The meeting closed at 9.25pm.

The minutes of a council meeting are a public record of who attended and the decisions that were made.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 20th November 2023 at Evenley Village Hall.

Signed: Cathy Ellis

Dated: 20th November 2023